

MERGER MAY STOP BASEBALL WAR; FED MAGNATES WOULD BUY WAY INTO MAJORS



Left to right, top: C. W. Murphy and Charles W. Murphy; bottom, William M. Walker and Dan Johnson.

It is whispered in big league circles that the baseball war will end soon, and that the wealthy Federal league magnates such as Charles W. Murphy and William M. Walker will be given an opportunity to buy into the major leagues. The two major league magnates most opposed to this plan are Dan Johnson and Charles W. Murphy.

CHICAGO, Nov. 6 (Special).—Plans are nearing consummation to terminate the baseball war by absorbing into the National league the men who hold the Federal league's bank roll.

The deal probably would have been completed already but for the sudden death of R. D. Ward, president of the Brooklands, who generally was credited with having put more money into baseball than any other individual during the professional life of the sport.

The plan which was submitted by organized baseball representatives by Federal league promoters during the world's series, and on which leading spirits in the National and Federal leagues have been working industriously, contemplates taking into partnership in different National league clubs Harry Sinclair, Phil Ball, C. W. Murphy, William Walker, Edward Gwinger and the heirs of the late R. D. Ward.

Eliminate Five Fed Clubs. That would eliminate five of the Federal league clubs—Newark, Brooklyn, Pittsburgh, Chicago and St. Louis—and the other three would have to be provided for by the American association and the International league. Kansas City is in A. A. territory, and Baltimore and Buffalo are within the boundaries of the International. The Newark plant of the Federal league is to be retained for use on Sundays by the New York Giants.

The scheme as outlined is for Sinclair to become part owner of the Giants, Ball to purchase the Brooklyn equity in the St. Louis Cardinals, Gwinger to be bought out by Dreyfuss or to be allowed to buy into the Pirates, and the White Sox and the Cubs to be consolidated and play on the north side grounds in this city. The Ward interests may be taken care of either in the New York or Brooklyn club, and the present Brookfield plant would become available for the International league.

Ball and Murphy Oppose Change. The obstacles in the way of this deal are said to be President Johnson of the American league and Charles W. Murphy, phantom owner of the Cubs, the latter of whom is pretty generally credited with having blocked the peace negotiations which were started last winter between Messrs. Weygman and Herrmann.

Anyone who recalls the events of last fall and winter is willing to believe the consent of C. W. Murphy will be found necessary to any scheme for the amalgamation of the Cubs and White Sox and their removal from this west side grounds, in which Murphy owns a half interest. This matter is said to be in the hands of National league officials at present.

Just how President Johnson of the American league is figured as an obstacle to the consolidation scheme of the National and Federal leagues is not disclosed, unless it is through refusal to surrender claims to players who jumped American league contracts to perform in the Federal league circuit. Among the side issues in a plan to transplant Miller Huggins as manager of the St. Louis Cardinals and give the reins to Fielder Jones of the St. Louis Browns. This may be opposed by Owner Comiskey of the White Sox.

Yankess Will Not Move. At one time there was a report that the owners of the New York American league club were contemplating the purchase of the Brooklyn Federal league plant, but that has been denied both by the Yankee owners and by President Johnson. Messrs. Ruppert and Huggins are said to prefer building a new Yankee plant in Queens county more easily accessible to downtown New York than either the Polo ground or the Brookfield plant.

With that deal thrown into the discard, the American league would seem to have only a passive interest in the existing peace plans. Aside from the player tangle, it is possible to bring about the demise of the Federal league and the reconstitution of the National league through an operation for transmission of blood without the consent of other than the parties to be operated on.

The real problem seems to be what to do about the players, some of whom jumped from the American league, some from the National, and more from the minor leagues.

Current Sportdom

—By HEK—

Baseball critics seem generally to acknowledge that only a radical change in the money policy of the Cleveland baseball bankers will make the Indians possible winners in the 1916 season. There are several clever performers on the other major teams who might be secured in exchange for a suitable financial outlay on the part of the close-fisted Cleveland baseball financiers. However, unless the Indians' backers do arrive at the conclusion that they must "loosen up" or see their team go to the wall, it looks like a hopeless task for Somers to turn out a winner.

That the defeat of Coffey at the hands of the Pittsburgh fighter, Moran, was a misfortune for Heavyweight Champion Jess Willard, is the opinion of eastern sport critics. Coffey has been one of the most popular fighters the game has ever known and, for this reason, the Coffey-Willard bout would have been a drawing card of tremendous power, especially in Gotham. Eastern fight critics say that Coffey's defeat may be attributed more to his own fallings than to any great mastery on the part of his conqueror, Moran. Failure to be cool under fire, especially when big money is at stake, is said to be a fatal weakness of the so-called Dublin champion. On the other hand, most of the sport writers are unwilling to admit that Moran possesses more than mediocre abilities in the squared circle.

FOOTBALL LASTING COLLEGIATE SPORT OF AMERICAN YOUTH

Great Institutions of Learning Return to Game, Indicating Reaction Favoring Gridiron Sport.

That football is coming into its own more than ever before, as the permanent and typical sport of the American college youth, taking first position among all branches of athletics, is attested by the return of several of the larger institutions of learning to the great autumn game, as well as the resumption of the sport by many of the smaller colleges and schools of the United States. Columbia and University of California are notable instances of colleges which have returned to the gridiron after some years of absence.

Careful reading of leading magazine and newspaper editorials will disclose the fact that there is a growing tendency to regard football as a permanent institution for the American college students. While admitting that football is necessarily a rough and exceedingly strenuous sport, leaving in its wake an annual list of serious and in some cases fatal accidents, observers are forced to admit that it is the one great sport which tends to bring out in the strenuous life of the present day. The sport is regarded as one of the few positive factors in guarding the youth of the country from yielding to the modern tendencies to an easy life, devoid of healthful athletic exercises. Football always will be rough and extremely aggressive sport. Attempts to make it otherwise have failed completely. The accidents attending the sport must be regarded as necessary evils to be tolerated or minimized in thought when one considers the ultimate good.

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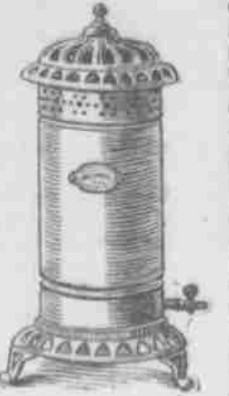
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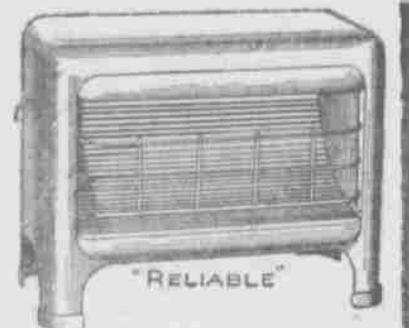


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LEADER OF KAWFEDS LAUGHS AT REPORTS OF PEACE WITH O. B.

George Stovall Declares That Such Talk Is "All Bunk"; Adds That Federals Are Pretty Independent Lot.

George Stovall, leader of the Kawfeds, scoffs at the idea that a definite peace program between the Federal and Organized Baseball magnates has been concluded. Stovall says he is in touch with the powers that be every day and that their advice to him are far from being indicative of peace. In fact, Stovall goes a bit further than that and says with emphasis that these peace reports are "all bunk."

Stovall, however, doesn't want it understood that he is considering any raids on the big teams just now. He prefers to follow the less strenuous life of the fisherman and golfer for a while, and he declares that he is going to pursue the dictates of his own sweet fancy for a time.

George is particularly perturbed over the report that some persons were going to try to restrict the Federals' players from indulging in winter league ball. But he goes on to say that the Federals, as a whole, do not want to play winter ball anyhow. They are too well paid for that, says the resolute leader of the Kansas City Federals.

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